

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA
CLERK'S OFFICE
NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING AND PREFILE TESTIMONY DEADLINES
DOCKET NO. 2021-15-C

Application of CarolinaConnect Cooperative, Inc. for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier pursuant to Section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934.

CarolinaConnect Cooperative, Inc. ("CarolinaConnect," "the Applicant," or the "Company"), has filed an Application with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") for designation as an Eligible Telecommunication Carrier ("ETC") in the State of South Carolina. The Application was filed pursuant to Section 214(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934 and S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-690. The Company requests ETC designation from the Commission in all areas where CarolinaConnect, through its participation in the Rural Electric Cooperative Consortium, has been allocated Rural Digital Opportunity Fund ("RDOF") Phase I support by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") as a winner in the RDOF Phase I auction. The Application states that the Company is obligated by the FCC to obtain ETC designation status by June 7, 2021, which is 180 days after the announcement by the FCC on December 7, 2020, that the Company is a winning bidder in the RDOF Phase I auction in the census blocks in which the Company was awarded RDOF Phase I support. In sum, the Company requests that the Commission designate CarolinaConnect as both a High-Cost and Low-Income Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, so that CarolinaConnect will be eligible to receive the RDOF Phase I support it has been awarded in Auction 904, as well as federal Lifeline support throughout its proposed ETC Designation Area.

A copy of the Company's Application can be found on the Commission's website at www.psc.sc.gov under Docket No. 2021-15-C. Additionally, a copy of the Application is available from the Company's representative J. David Black, Esquire; Nexsen Pruet, LLC, 1230 Main Street, Suite 700, Columbia, South Carolina 29201.

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter as a Party of Record should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure on or before **February 18, 2021**, by filing the Petition to Intervene with the Commission, by providing a copy to the Office of Regulatory Staff and by providing a copy to all Parties of Record. For the receipt of future Commission correspondence, please include an email address in the Petition to Intervene. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2021-15-C and mail a copy to all other Parties in this Docket.*** Any person who seeks to intervene and who wishes to testify and present evidence at the hearing should notify, in writing, the Commission; the Office of Regulatory Staff at 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201; and the company at the above address, on or before **February 18, 2021**. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2021-15-C.***

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE a virtual hearing, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-817, on the above matter has been scheduled to begin on **Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.**, before the Commission in the Commission's Hearing Room at 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100, Saluda Building, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 for the purpose of receiving testimony and evidence from all interested parties.

The rates proposed in the Company's Petition/Application are subject to potential modification by the Commission during the course of this case.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PARTIES OF RECORD (Applicant, Petitioners, and Intervenors only): All Parties of Record must prefile testimony with the Commission and with all Parties of Record. Prefiled Testimony Deadlines: Applicant's **Direct Testimony Due: February 24, 2021**; Other Parties of Record **Direct Testimony Due: March 10, 2021**; Applicant's **Rebuttal Testimony Due: March 17, 2021**; and Other Parties of Record **Surrebuttal Testimony Due: March 24, 2021**. All Prefiled Testimony Deadlines are subject to the information as posted on www.psc.sc.gov under ***Docket No. 2021-15-C.***

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For the most recent information regarding this Docket, including changes in scheduled dates included in this Notice, please refer to www.psc.sc.gov and *Docket No. 2021-15-C*.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding **MUST** present such comments in person to the Commission during the hearing.

Persons seeking information about the Commission's procedures should contact the Commission at **(803) 896-5100** or visit its website at www.psc.sc.gov.

1/14/2021